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Bringing “A Dream...” To Fruition

What is a dream? One may view a dream as fantasy. Another may think it a mere deluding of imaginary things while asleep. Well, a certain King—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – had a vision that far exceeded the boundaries of a notion constrained within the perimeters of a mind at rest. He had a vision of “a land of the free.” That apparition thrived on **Faith, Unity, and Peace**. It has been four decades since this noble, simultaneously, humble man recited his world renowned “I Have a Dream...” speech. Various, senseless acts of violence and destruction have been committed as a result of deeply rooted hatred and prejudices, grudges, and unresolved contention within that time frame, which contradict and go against Dr. King’s dream of equal rights and opportunities for all mankind through nonviolent means. What can I do personally, in my home, and community, to further the message of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?

The late Dr. King uttered “I have a dream that one day...? As I ponder the thought of where I stand in this dream, I ask myself, “Why can’t that be **today**?” Although I have not suffered directly from afflictions of the oppressors during a period of profound segregation and injustice, I have witnessed inscrutable acts of physical, verbal and psychological abuse in present day. The bombing in Oklahoma City in April of 1994...the Columbine shootings in April of 1999... and the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 alone leave our nation in a state of paralysis. As the leaders of our

nation contemplate who is to blame, I cogitate what I can do to refurbish, or rather continue the message of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Aspiring to make a difference, I must first acknowledge that Dr. King had more than a dream. Understanding that, I must stand firm in my belief in that dream. Subsequently, I must model my disposition as a reflection of his dream.

With any pursuit in life, it must begin with me. I have to work on my inner-spirit if I desire to be of any influence to someone else. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!” This is my drive. With this optimistic frame of mind, I can step out of my comfort zone and impact someone else’s life. In my immediate home, I make choices that will enhance my being and broaden my horizons rather than hinder my chances of making a difference in this world. Since children learn through observation, my siblings will be more apt to imitate courteous and admirable behavior if they see me behaving in the same regard. It is unfortunate, however, that it does not start in the home for everyone. That is why my duty as a role model does not end with the ringing of the school bell and start again when I reach home. In my community, I am often called “Mom” and even wished Happy Mother’s Day. Did I bear any children? No. But I do report violence when I see it. I do counsel and give advice even before asked. The adolescents that smoke do hide or put away their paraphernalia when they see me. The teenagers and adults commend me for being focused and always smiling—always smiling. Do I often lead a drama-free life? No, but I do not allow many vicissitudes that so often occur to obtrude in God’s will for me. Smiles are contagious. If I can do nothing more than brighten someone else’s world with the sharing of a smile and a simple

“hello”, I have done my part. I will lead by example in an attempt to bring “A Dream...”
to fruition.